ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM

OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH,

1856.

ABERDEEN:
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VICTORIA COURT, 54, CASTLE STREET.

1856.

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1856.

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MEDICAL REPORT.

Another year continues to show the Aberdeen Asylum to be under the extent required by the necessities of the district, for which it has so long furnished sufficient accommodation. The cases refused have not been much under the number of those received.

By reason of the condition of the Hospital, the number of new cases has had to be regulated by the number of deaths and dismissals. The admissions and removals have almost exactly balanced each other,—the number of the former having been sixty-one, and of the latter sixty. The inmates under care and treatment at the commencement of the year were two hundred and seventy-eight, and at its conclusion two hundred and seventy-nine. The average number of patients during the period was two hundred and seventy-four. Nine patients died; thirty-one were dismissed completely recovered; and twenty others removed in various conditions of improvement.

These are, in several respects, different from ordinary results, and from the usual history of the Asylum. For many a preceding year had the dismissions continued to be much under the number of admissions; and also, for the first time, has the mean number

of residents declined below the average of the antecedent year. The recoveries have been at the rate of upwards of fifty per cent. on the admissions,—the average rate of the Institution being but forty-five. But the most characterising feature in the medical history of the year is the small proportion of deaths in relation to the cases treated. While the last Annual Report had the peculiarity of representing the number of recoveries as higher than known in any previous statement of the results of medical treatment in this Institution, in the present Report is exhibited the smallest number of deaths that has hitherto been recorded in its history,—the mortality of the year having been less than half what was to have been looked for from past experience.

There have been no accidents of a serious or unusual kind, except two fractures of the arm—one from an accidental fall in an elderly person, and another from the sudden and unexpected assault of a violent patient. Though an increased amount of freedom is allowed to orderly inmates, there have been only two successful attempts at escape;—one by a male patient, from the outer grounds of the Hospital; and one by a female, chiefly through the carelessness of an attendant. Both escaped in the evening;—the latter was recovered on the same night, and the other on the subsequent day.

No epidemic has affected the patients. One case of scarlet fever occurred in a servant of the house, and was immediately removed before occasioning the infection of any other inmate.

The following alterations and improvements in the buildings have been carried out since last Report:—The addition of improved sets of bed-rooms for noisy and helpless patients; the establishment of two sick wards or infirmaries; the extension of

Perkins's Heating Apparatus to almost all the sleeping apartments of the Hospital; the building of a commodious hall and its occupation as a chapel; the addition of workshops; and the removal of various walls, interfering with a better arrangement of the patients and with improvements in the airing-yards.

Opportunity has also been taken to draw out an ample code of directions for the Attendants in the performance of their duties, which, having received the approbation of the Managing Committee, has been printed accordingly. At the same time, for the guidance of the Matron and House Steward, the dietary of the Hospital has been revised, and its various scales exhibited in tabulated forms, readily intelligible and easy to be practically worked.

It is not improbable that the increasing size of the Establishment may render some alteration desirable in the number and the arrangement of duties of its resident officials.

In addition to the ordinary inspection of the Visiting Committee, as also of the Sheriff, the Asylum has this year been visited, among others, by Mr. Weston Miln, President of the Managers of the Dundee Lunatic Asylum; by Dr. John Webster, one of the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, well known by his writings on Lunacy matters; and on several occasions, by members of the Lunacy Commission, recently appointed by Her Majesty to inquire into the condition of the public and private Asylums of Scotland, to whom the fullest information and every means of investigation have been afforded.

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.

TABLES.

TABLE I.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, 1st April, 1855,	129	149	278
Admitted during the year,	34	27	61
Under care and treatment during the year,	163	176	339
Removed during the year:—			
Recovered, (Males 13, Females 18, Total 31)			
Improved, (Males 3, Females 3, Total 6)			
Unimproved, (Males 6, Females 8, Total 14)			
Dead, (Males 3, Females 6, Total 9)	25	35	60
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1856,	138	141	279

TABLE II.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO PLACES OF RESIDENCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Aberdeen and Suburbs,	16	12	28
From other parts of Aberdeenshire,	14	10	24
From more distant localities,	4	5	9
	34	27	61

TABLE III.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single,	15	14	29
Married,	18	10	28
Widowed,	1	3	4
	34	27	61

TABLE IV.

AGE OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20,	3	1	4
,, 20 to 30,	7	4	11
,, 30 to 40,	3	7	10
,, 40 to 50,	11	6	17
,, 50 to 60,	9	7	16
,, 60 to 70,	0	2	2
,, 70 to 80,	1	0	1
	34	27	61

TABLE V.

OCCUPATION OR STATION IN LIFE OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

MALES.

Bookseller,	1	Miller,	1
Brass-finisher,	1	Paupers,	2
Cartwright,	1	Seamen,	2
Combmaker,	1	Ship Carpenters,	2
Crofter,	1	Shoemaker,	1
Engravers,	2	Shopkeepers,	2
Farmers,	5	Student,	1
Farm Servant,	1	Surgeon,	1
Flaxdresser,	1	Tailors,	3
House Painter,	1	Weaver,	1
Labourers,	3		

FEMALES.

Carter's Wife	1	Knitter,	1
Crofter's Wife,	1	Labourers' Wives,	2
Engineer's Wife,	1	Pauper,	1
Factory Workers,	2	Sempstresses,	2
Farmers' Wives,	4	Servants,	4
Farmer's Daughter,	1	Washer,	1
Gardener's Wife,	1	No occupation,	4
Joiner's Wife,	1		

TABLE VI.

FORM OF INSANITY IN CASES ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Amentia,	1	0	1
Mania,	10	9	19
Dementia	7	3	10
Monomania,	7	4	11
Melancholia,	9	11	20
	34	27	61

TABLE VII.

COMPLICATION OF CASES ADMITTED WITH NERVOUS DISEASE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Epilepsy, with Amentia,	1	0	1
Epilepsy, with Dementia,	1	0	1
Paralysis, General, with Dementia,	1	1	2
Hysteria, with Mania,	0	1	1
Hypochondriasis, with Melancholia,	2	0	2
Choreaic Disorder, with Dementia,	1	0	1
	6	2	8

TABLE VIII.

COMPLICATION OF CASES ADMITTED WITH DISEASED IMPULSE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Suicidal Impulse, with Melancholia,	5	3	8
Suicidal Impulse, with Monomania,	1	1	2
Homicidal Impulse, with Monomania,	1	0	1
	7	4	11

TABLE IX.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS IN RELATION TO HISTORY AND PREVIOUS DURATION OF THE CASE.

First attack, and under 3 months' previous duration,	32·78	per cent.
First attack, above 3 months, but under 1 year's do.	11.47	,,
Not first attack, under 1 year's previous duration,	18·03	,,
Cases above 1 year's previous duration,	6·55	,,
Cases of unrecorded duration,	31·14	,,

TABLE X.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE NATURE OF CAUSES ASSIGNED IN CASES ADMITTED.

Mental cause,	11·64 per cent.
Physical cause,	39·34 ,,
Mental and Physical causes combined in	19·3 ,,
Causes unknown in	29·65 ,,
Hereditary Predisposition in	32·78 ,,
Previous attack in	18·03 ,,

TABLE XI.

CASES SUPPOSED ATTRIBUTABLE TO MENTAL CAUSE.

No.	Exciting Cause.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Disease.
1	Ill regulated devotional feeling,	F.	32	Mania (hysterical.)
2	Over-exertion of mind and disappointment,	M.	27	Melancholia (suicidal.)
3	Poverty & domestic unhappiness,	M.	53	Melancholia (suicidal.)
4	Grief—death of wife,	M.	40	Melancholia.
5	Grief—death of son,	F.	58	Melancholia (suicidal.)
6	Insanity of daughter,	F.	50	Melancholia.

TABLE XII.

CASES SUPPOSED ATTRIBUTABLE TO PHYSICAL EXCITING CAUSE.

No.	Exciting Cause.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Disease.
1	Fever,	M.	40	Mania.
2	Blow on Head,	M.	26	Monomania.
3	Blow on Head,	M.	34	Monomania.
4	Meningitis,	M.	56	Monomania.
5	Phthisical Disease,	F.	28	Mania.
6	Debility from Surgical Disease & treatment	M.	41	Monomania.
7	Epilepsy,	M.	49	Dementia.
8	Pregnancy,	F.	24	Mania.
9	Childbirth,	F.	25	Mania.
10	Nursing,	F.	34	Mania.
11	Nursing,	F.	34	Melancholia.
12	Change of life,	F.	46	Melancholia.
13	Intemperance,	M.	46	Mania.
14	Intemperance,	M.	50	Mania.
15	Intemperance,	M.	34	Dementia.
16	Intemperance,	M.	43	Monomania.
17	Intemperance,	F.	49	Monomania.

TABLE XIII.

CASES ATTRIBUTABLE TO COMBINED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CAUSES.

No.	Mental Cause.	Physical Cause.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Disease.
1	Recovd. personal liberty.	Previous attack,	M.	40	Mania.
2	A Quarrel,	Hered. tend. & prev. attack,	F.	47	Mania.
3	A Quarrel,	Nursing & previous attack,	F.	39	Mania.
4	Family disagreement,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	18	Mania.
5	Ill regulated devotional feeling,	Hereditary tendency,	M.	19	Mania.
6	Excitement in business,	Hered. tend. & prev. attack,	M.	52	Mania.
7	Excitement in business,	Phthisis & hered. tendency,	M.	55	Mania.
8	Anxiety in sick-nursing a relative,	Physical exhaustion,	F.	39	Melancho. (suicidal)
9	Domestic unhappiness,	Hereditary tendency,	M.	56	Monoma. (homicid.)
10	Domestic unhappiness,	Previous attack,	F.	45	Melancholia.
11	Loss of husband and domestic distress,	Hereditary tendency,	F.	52	Melancho. (suicidal)
12	Grief for death of daught.	Hereditary tendency,	M.	54	Melancho. (suicidal)
13	Grief for death of child,	Hered. tend. & prev. attack,	F.	30	Mania.

TABLE XIV.

DEATHS.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Disease.	Causes.	Duration of Residence.	Cause of Death.
1	M.	55	Mania,	Excitement in business & hered. tend.	11 days,	Phthisis.
2	F.	73	Mania,		6 years,	General Paralysis,
3	F.	37	Dementia,	Epilepsy,	1 yr. 9 months,	Epilepsy.
4	F.	41	Dementia,	Epilepsy,	1 yr. 6 months,	Epilepsy.
5	F.	57	Dementia,	Hereditary tendency,	4 months,	Pneumonia.
6	M.	59	Melancholia,	Grief for death of child & herd. tend.	2 mos. 2 weeks,	Exhaustion.
7	M.	71	Melancholia,		14 yrs. 3 mos.	Exhaustion.
8	F.	45	Melancholia,	Family changes—Phthisis,	4 months,	Phthisis.
9	F.	35	Monomania,	Intemperance,	5 years,	Pneumonia.

TABLE XV

CASES DISCHARGED RECOVERED.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Disease.	Previous duration of Disease.	Duration of Residence.	Mental Cause.	Physical Cause.
1	M.	19	Mania,		5 months,		Hereditary tendency.
2	M.	20	Mania (recurrent),	3 weeks,	10 months,		Previous attack.
3	M.	39	Mania (sensorial),	1 week,	8 weeks,		Intemperance & previous attack.
4	M.	42	Mania (recurrent),	3 days,	12 years,		Intemperance & previous attack.
5	M.	44	Mania,	6 weeks,	4 mos. 3 wks.		Intemperance & previous attack.
6	M.	51	Mania,	1 month,	6 weeks,		Fever.
7	M.	55	Mania,		13 months,		Hered. tend., intemp. & prev. attack.
8	M.	61	Mania,	6 weeks,	7 mos. 3 wks.	Affiliation of a child,	Hereditary tendency.
9	F.	30	Mania (hysterical),	2 weeks,	3 months,	Ill regulated devotional feeling	
10	F.	39	Mania,	6 weeks,	6 months,	A Quarrel,	Nursing.
11	F.	47	Mania,	1 week,	4 months.		
12	F.	47	Mania,		6 months,	A Quarrel,	Hereditary tendency.
13	F.	51	Mania,	2 weeks,	13 months,		Previous attack.
14	F.	51	Mania,		3 months,		Intemperance.
15	F.	56	Mania,	10 days,	9 months,		Harvest labour—previous attack.
16	F.	69	Mania,	6 weeks,	6 weeks,		Hereditary tendency.
17	M.	41	Monomania (suspicion),		2 mos. 4 wks.	Poverty,	Physical debility.
18	M.	56	Monomania (jealousy),	1 month,	2 mos. 1 wk.		Meningitis.
19	F.	27	Monomania (dread),	4 months,	6 months.		
20	F.	35	Monomania (pride),		7 mos. 3 wks.		Hereditary tend. & prev. attack.
21	M.	27	Melancholia (suicidal),	3 months,	3 months,	Over-exer. of mind & disap.	
22	M.	41	Melancholia (suicidal),	3 months,	3 yrs. 6 mos.		Previous attack.
23	M.	48	Melancholia,	8 months,	3 months.		
24	F.	36	Melancholia,	3 months,	2 yrs. 5 mos.		Hereditary tendency & childbirth.
25	F.	36	Melancholia (suicidal),	5 months,	1 yr. 3 mos.	Pecuniary Embarrassment,	
26	F.	39	Melancholia (suicidal),	2 weeks,	8 months,	Anxiety in sick-nursing relative	Physical Exhaustion.
27	F.	45	Melancholia,	2 months,	5 months,		Hered. tend. and change of life.
28	F.	46	Melancholia (suicidal),	3 weeks,	7 months,	Poverty,	Hereditary tendency.
29	F.	48	Melancholia,	6 days,	13 months,	Domestic Disturbances,	Previous attack.
30	F.	55	Melancholia (homicidal),	1 year,	1 yr. 7 mos.		
31	F.	58	Melancholia (suicidal),	4 weeks,	2 months,	Death of son,	Previous attack.

TABLE XVI.

RESULTS, AT PRESENT DATE, OF ADMISSIONS OF 55 YEARS.

Year.	Admitted	Recovered.	Relieved, &c.	Dead.	Remaining 31st March, 1856.
1800-20	387	303		82	2
1821	55	28	19	7	1
1822	44	21	12	11	0
1823	39	12	15	12	0
1824	38	20	12	4	2
1825	52	23	19	9	1
1826	41	22	10	7	2
1827	36	15	13	7	1
1828	32	16	8	5	3
1829	46	16	18	11	1
1830	59	30	11	16	2
1831	33	13	8	10	2
1832	33	15	6	11	1
1833	42	19	14	9	0
1834	50	19	22	5	4
1835	42	22	7	10	3
1836	41	17	12	6	6
1837	43	17	10	13	3
1838	53	23	10	16	4
1839	74	32	17	18	7
1840	48	25	11	7	5
1841	56	21	15	14	6
1842	57	21	13	8	9
1843	71	37	12	12	10
1844	74	34	19	13	8
1845	93	47	21	19	6
1846	67	29	20	12	6
1847	95	48	19	14	14
1848	83	41	23	13	6
1849	81	35	16	12	18
1850	69	33	12	11	13
1851	85	35	15	12	23
1852	95	47	17	9	22
1853	107	46	17	20	24
1854	65	25	10	7	23
1855	61	15	2	3	41
	2441	1707		455	279

TABLE XVII.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE LAST 26 YEARS.

Year.	Mean Number Resident.	Admitted.	Recovered	Dead.	Recovered per cent. to Admissions.	Recovered per cent. to mean No. Resident.	Deaths per cent. to Admiss.	Deaths per cent. to mean No. Resident.
1830	102	59	27	8	45·77	26·57	13·56	7·84
1831	100	33	14	12	42·42	14·00	36·36	12·00
1832	106	33	15	10	45 45	14·15	30·30	9·43
1833	107	42	23	14	54·76	21·51	33·33	13·08
1834	114	50	16	6	32·00	14·91	12 00	5·26
1835	116	42	20	11	47 61	18·10	26·19	9·48
1836	109	41	24	5	58·53	22·02	12·19	4·59
1837	113	43	16	8	39·53	14·16	18·60	7·08
1838	124	53	20	14	37·73	16·13	26 41	11·29
1839	140	74	26	10	35·13	18·57	13·51	7·14
1840	144	48	25	19	52·08	17·36	39·58	13·19
1841	150	56	22	10	39·29	14 66	17·86	6·67
1842	152	51	26	11	50·98	17·10	21·57	7·24
1843	167	71	28	12	39·44	17·18	16·90	7·19
1844	183	74	30	7	40·54	16·39	9 46	3·83
1845	200	93	41	13	44·09	20·05	13·98	6·50
1846	213	67	29	12	43·28	13·14	17·91	5·63
1847	222	95	40	23	42·10	18 02	24·21	10·36
1848	229	82	47	17	57·31	20·52	20·73	7·42
1849	229	83	36	16	43·36	15·70	19·27	6·98
1850	230	69	32	17	46·37	13·91	24·91	7·39
1851	245	85	32	20	37·64	13·06	23·53	8·16
1852	263	95	42	18	44·21	15·97	18 94	6·84
1853	280	107	54	21	50·46	19·28	17·75	7·50
1854	281	65	39	19	60·00	13·87	29·23	6·75
1855	274	61	31	9	50·82	11·31	14·75	3·29
Sum and Average of 26 years.	4593 176·65	1672 64·30	755 29·04	342 13·61	45·34	16·83	21·27	7·69

TABLE XVIII.

ABSTRACT OF DAILY RETURNS, SHOWING OCCUPATION, &c. OF PATIENTS REMAINING IN THE HOSPITAL.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of Patients in the Asylum,	138	141	279
" in Front House,	22	17	39
" in Back House,	51	54	105
" in East Wing,	—	70	70
" in West Wing,	65	—	65
Number of Patients employed,	59	94	153
" in Gardening,	46	—	46
" in Workshops,	7	—	7
" in Needlework,	—	33	33
" in Knitting,	—	3	3
" in Laundry Work,	—	22	22
" in Domestic Work,	6	36	42
Number of Patients in Bed,	2	7	9
" in Seclusion,	2	—	2
Number of Patients attending Chapel on week days,	43	38	81
Number of Patients attending Chapel on Sundays,	85	64	149
Number of Patients troublesome during the night,	—	4	4

TABLE XIX.

ARTICLES OF CLOTHING MADE AND REPAIRED, FROM 1ST APRIL, 1855, TO 1ST APRIL, 1856.

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Pulpit Gown,	1	0	Aprons,	183	363
Coats,	51	313	Day-Caps,	264	346
Vests,	52	224	Nightcaps,	77	198
Trousers,	61	346	Shifts,	185	468
Jackets,	8	68	Bedgowns,	25	170
Linders,	137	1333	Slips,	10	59
Drawers,	108	612	Wrappers,	48	50
Caps (Men's),	2	19	Habit-shirts,	22	33
Strong Bed Quilts,	2	26	Collars,	29	2
Sheets,	143	215	Stays,	16	—
Bed-ticks,	51	41	Canvas-covers,	19	43
Pillow-ticks,	27	20	Bedcovers,	79	80
Bolster-ticks,	18	37	Stockings (pairs),	354	6408
Pillow-slips,	113	88	Towels,	57	27
Bolster-slips,	40	64	Table-covers,	20	8
Neckerchiefs,	273	117	Strong Dresses,	30	53
Shirts,	113	637	Carpets,	3	10
Neck-Stocks,	—	16	Blankets,	—	57
Petticoats,	134	412	Shrouds,	6	—
Gowns,	154	357			

ROYAL INFIRMARY,

9th June, 1856.

At a Quarterly Court of the Managers held here this day, the Medical Report of the ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM *having been read by Dr.* JAMIESON, *was approved of, and ordered to be printed and circulated, along with an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure.*

THOS. BLAIKIE, PROVOST, *P.*

ABSTRACT

OF THE

INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE LUNATIC ASYLUM,

For One Year, ending 31st March, 1856.

Income.

Legacies,	£2	14	5
Bedlam Fund,	30	0	0
Legacy by Dr. Dun (Income from it),	39	12	9
Ground under Crop,	115	2	11
Houses and Ground, Barkmill (Rental),	44	9	4
Bequest—George, James, and Alexander Chalmers,	30	0	0
Board for Patients,	5142	4	8
	£5404	4	1

Expenditure.

Provisions,	£2627	14	0
Fire and Light,	358	16	9
Washing,	52	1	2
Medicines,	30	8	6
Wine, Spirits, and Porter,	45	5	1
Repairs,	139	13	1
Furniture and Bedding,	266	15	9
Salaries to Medical Officers,	400	0	0
Do. to Chaplain,	50	0	0
Do. to Treasurer,	112	10	0
Do. to House Steward,	75	0	0
Do. to Matron,	70	0	0
Servants' Wages,	507	7	7
Incidents, Insurance, Printing, Stationery, and Annuity,	180	2	0
Interest,	91	0	5
Clothing for Pauper Lunatics,	230	16	10
	£5237	11	2
Income above Expenditure,	166	12	11
	£5404	4	1

WM. WALKER, *Treasurer.*

Legacies.

The following Legacies have been received for behoof of the Asylum, betwixt 31st March, 1855, and 1st April, 1856:—

Interest of John Gavin's Mortification of £100, from the Kirk Sessions of Peterculter and Drumoak, for 1856,	£2	14	5
The late Provost James Milne, £50, less Duty,	45	0	0
	£47	14	5

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